The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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My way of joking is to tell the truth. It's the funniest joke in the world.—Bernard Shaw.

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LABOR WINS FIGHT AGAINST LOW-WAGE THEORY

General agreement on the value of high wages is the latest justification of organized labor.

For years the trade union movement combatted the doctrine that low wages means cheaper production and cheaper production means "more business."

When the workers opposed wage reductions, when they insisted that a cheap wage system lessens their purchasing power, and that general retrenchment follows, the economic wise men were shocked. It contradicted their ancient dogma.

Labor's position was ridiculed. It "ignores economic law," the workers were told.

But labor was not deterred because it stood alone. This was not unusual for the workers. They stood alone when they first agitated against child labor, for the eight-hour day, for compensation laws, direct legislation, and other remedial measures.

They continued their agitation against wage reductions. They insisted that a low purchasing power brings every social evil that ill befits a democratic people; that it means low living standards, child labor and intensified cycles of business depression, each one more intense than its predecessor.

Finally, history again repeated. Now, no one defends low wages. Captains of industry, editorial writers and economists believe they have discovered something and loudly proclaim the new theory.

Labor now supplements its opposition to low wages by a demand that the workers receive a share of greater production through the technical development in industry, elimination of waste, and labor-saving and labor-displacing devices.

At the last convention of the A. F. of L. this resolution was unanimously approved:

> **"Social inequality, industrial instability and injustice must increase unless the workers' real wages—the purchasing power of their wages—coupled with a continued reduction in the number of hours making up the working day are progressed in proportion to man's increasing power of production."**

This declaration will meet the same opposition as did other reforms urged by the workers. It is the law of life that changes are accepted just in proportion to the agitation for them.

That the new theory will eventually triumph is as certain as the acceptance of other remedies for social and industrial ills favored by workers, and which were as stoutly resisted.

VOTING PRIVILEGE IGNORED BY PEOPLE

Washington, Aug. 14.—Primary election scandals, as revealed by the Senate special committee, would not happen if voters appreciated the franchise, said President Green, writing as editor of American Federationist, current issue.

"The information already produced in this investigation makes it plain that the primary itself can not guarantee good government," he said. "No political method can do that. The fundamentally important factor is the spirit of the citizenry. Spirit is more than form.

"Those who buy elections in those days must control fortunes. It is significant that some who raise the slogan 'abolish the primary' are the ones who have tried to corrupt it. Certainly they are advisors whose motives can well be questioned.

"Rather than abolish the primary we need to consider ways and means that would bring the participation of a larger number of voters in the primary election. We need to educate our citizens to the responsibilities accompanying their privileges.

"We need to develop a citizenry that thinks straight and acts promptly and is competent to select its representatives and to judge their performance in office. The crux of this problem is the problem of making democracy efficient."

BRITISH WORKERS ARE IN AMERICA TO PLEAD HUNGER CAUSE OF MINERS

Washington, Aug. 14.—A delegation of British trade unionists are in this country to secure funds for the relief of striking miners and their families. They conferred with President Green and Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L., who arranged an itinerary for the visitors. They have divided their delegation and will make their first addresses in Boston, St. Louis, Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York.

President Green assured the British unionists that American trade unionists are in sympathy with the miners' three-month struggle to improve their condition, and the present effort to secure funds to be used in purchasing food and clothing for the strikers and their families. Only recently the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. authorized an appeal for contributions for the same purpose.

The delegation consists of the following: Ben Tillett, member of the General Council of the British Trades Union Congress; Joseph Jones, general secretary Association; engineers; and Sir James Hobson, president Durham Miners' Association; Paul McKenna, miners' agent, Scottish miners; Oliver Harris, treasurer South Wales Miners' Association; Miss Ellen Wilkinson, of the Women's Committee for the Relief of Miners' Wives and Families.

The visitors were surprised when they read Premier Baldwin's statement cabled to this country that there is no suffering among British miners and their families. They ask if it is reasonable to suppose that suffering is not general when more than 1,200,000 wage earners have been idle for more than three months. Other industries are affected by the strike, which, in truth, is a lockout, because of the coal owners' attempt to reduce wages.

The miners, they say, are as determined as the day they left the pits. The government has amended the miners' work-day law, which permits coal owners to operate an additional hour, but this has failed of its purpose. The miners demand a national agreement. The amended law would legalize district agreements and permit coal owners to operate an additional hour. Lower rates that would make matters worse.

SLUGGERS ROAM WESTERN CITY; FINANCED BY UNION SMASHERS

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—Building contractors and material men have flooded the city with thugs to smash the Carpenters' union. The anti-union fight is directed by the Industrial Association.

The terrorism is so pronounced that the Board of Supervisors of this city and county recently called on the chief of police "to use every means at his command to prevent any further importations of ex-convict or other undesirable characters into this city for use as strikebreakers."

The chief was ordered to desist from having his department assist the Industrial Association or assign policemen for espionage duty.

In opposing the issuance of an injunction in the Superior Court, the carpenters produced a large number of affidavits to prove that the Industrial Association is responsible for the shooting and slugging of citizens. These affidavits were by former employees of the association, who testified that they were offered as high as $1,000 each for shooting union men, but in some cases the price was as low as $250. For slugging and blackjacking, the prices were $50 to $100. This money was paid through private detective and strikebreaking agencies.

Ernest K. Howard, who swore he was employed as a "guard and slugger" by "Black Jack" Jerome, notorious strikebreaker, testified: "On many occasions I was directed by Jerome to commit assault and battery on union men and all of the circumstances under which they were committed were well known to officers and agents of the Industrial Association.

I was given a special fee of from $50 to $100 in addition to my daily salary of $11.25, for each act of violence."

While the Industrial Association is financing these assaults, it makes loud professions of patriotism and assumes to defend law and order in this city.

Women's Wages Lower Than Men's; Industry Demands Surplus Of Labor

Industrial Commissioner Hamilton of the State of New York does not accept the theory that there is an unemployment. In referring to "the reserve of surplus labor that persists through good times and bad," he says:

"One of the most impressive facts brought out in the whole study is the large reserve of labor necessary to maintain the working force that appears on the payroll of each industry."

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 14.—Wage working women in this state are paid 56 per cent less than men, and they are confronted with different conditions than men, in that they work in smaller groups.

These two points, together with a reference to the labor surplus in production, are features of a report on "Earnings of Women in Factories," by State Industrial Commissioner James A. Hamilton.

Women work in different trades and occupations from those of men, he says, but taking all places open to women and all those open to men in factories the average earnings for men in 1924-25 were $31.36 a week, and that for women were $17.45, or about 56 per cent of the earnings received by the men.

The report stresses the narrow range of jobs open to women. There are few or no industries, even in the food and sewing groups, where men form less than 20 per cent of the working force, but there are many industries where women make up less than one per cent of all the workers. Over 60 per cent of all the women in factories are in either the clothing or the textile groups, and the food industries take 10 per cent more. Women are only slightly represented in the important metals group and very few are at work on wood products or the manufacturing of building materials like cement and brick, where employment is seasonal, unusually high in the last two years.

The report also emphasizes that irregular employment, whether it be seasonal or other reasons is likely to bear most heavily on women workers. Women are much more likely to feel the effects of seasonal unemployment than men. In the type of seasonal industry where the labor force is subject to irregular employment, as in the sewing trades, women tend to get much more of it than men. In another type of seasonal work, like candy factories, where a steady force is maintained throughout the year, and extra workers hired for the busy season, these extra workers are almost entirely women.

Payrolls show, even more than employment, the irregularity to which women workers are subject. The difference in earnings is thus dull to busy seasons is much greater for women than men.

"One of the most impressive facts brought out in the whole study," said the commissioner, "is the large reserve of labor necessary to maintain the working force that appears on the payrolls of each industry."

Lumber Barons Hire Low-Wage Japs

Portland, Ore., Aug. 14.—The Central Labor Council has appointed a committee to publish the facts underlying a suit in the federal court, which resulted in damages of $2,500 against residents of Toledo, this state, who protested against the employment of Japanese by the Pacific Spruce Corporation.

Behind this suit is an effort by the corporation to colonize Toledo with Orientals. If the court's ruling on what constitutes a "conspiracy" stands, any group of strikers are liable in civil action, it is said.

The Japanese who secured damages was defended by attorneys for the Pacific Spruce Corporation. The Jap claimed he was deported from Toledo. Defendants deny that force was used when he visited the Japanese colony. It was admitted that guards in the pay of the Spruce Corporation were disarmed when they attempted to prevent citizens from speaking to the Orientals.

Attorney for the corporation claim the award is a triumph for the right to work "when and where one pleases." One of these attorneys says he was not interested" in the amount of the award.

The suit is one feature of the Spruce Corporation's long effort to employ cheap Oriental labor, although it has been repeatedly warned that this will develop a racial sentiment against it.

The Portland Oregonian, which recently declared in favor of high wages, made no stop to defend the Spruce Corporation:

"The verdict was a victory for the principle involved, the right of Japanese to work where and when they will at whatever wage they wish."

"That is another way of saying," replies the Oregon Labor Press, "that employers are to be permitted to pay such a wage as best suits them, without regard to the workers' welfare and that to enforce that wage employers may deny American workers the right to work when and where they will."

STANDOFF OIL PROFITS REACH DIZZY HEIGHTS

New York, Aug. 14.—The increase of dividends by Standard Oil Company of New York again calls attention to the golden stream that silently flows into the coffers of various Standard Oil units.

No comment is made on these profits, which are quietly distributed in the form of stock dividends—or additional stock—to stockholders.

Through this pyramiding process a share of Standard Oil of New York that was bought for $275 in 1912 has a market value of $2,250 and yields $120 a year in dividends.

In 1913 a stock dividend of 400 per cent was issued. In 1922 a 200 per cent stock dividend was issued and early this year a 25 per cent stock dividend was paid.

This system keeps down the interest rate, but the total amount paid stockholders reaches dizzy heights.

BOYCOTT BRINGS LOSS TO BRITISH BUSINESS

Williamsport, Mass., Aug. 14.—The Chinese boycott of British goods in China is bringing staggering losses to British merchants, and is lowering the political and diplomatic prestige of that country, according to Prof. Cyrus H. Peake of Columbia University, speaking to the Institute of Politics.

From 1913 to 1923, the speaker said, Great Britain's trade with China fell from 40 per cent of the total to 29 per cent, while Japan's increased 300 per cent and that of the United States 400 per cent.

Prof. Peake indicated that the denial of political rights to the Chinese by the western nations "to reconsider their policies with a view of meeting possible eventualities."

Dr. Leo S. Rowe said Americans must not delude themselves that this country enjoys immunity "from the sinister influences that have wrought havoc in Europe."

Prof. Haslam of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said that chemistry has supplanted oil for war purposes.

"Less than five years ago," he said, "the power of a nation to wage war might be measured by its capacity to produce or obtain coal, oil and petroleum. Today the chemists have eliminated the absolute necessity to procure unknown to petroleum or petroleum products substitute may now be made from coal."

"Defensive Gains" Often Ignored Alert Labor Defeats Bureaucracy

Washington, Aug. 14.—"Defensive victories" are often ignored when trade union gains are listed, writes Editor Flaherty of the Union Postal Clerk, official magazine of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

"Not all of our legislative victories take the form of 'new statutes,' says then the labor editor. "The affiliated postal organizations defeated the Joe Stewart proposal that congress give a monopolistic group insurance control to the postmaster general. The idea was unsound and half baked. The department was handicapped in having the support of certain organization representatives who 'yes' every proposal, no matter how absurd, that emanates from officialdom. Members of congress were quick to see the bona fide organizations of postal employes were right in their opposition.

"The group insurance proposition, it was strongly suspected, was put forward as a smoke screen for defeat night work reduction and other worthwhile reforms that the department is withholding from its workers.

"The equally untenable proposal to reduce postage rates failed. Business men who are forever clamoring for lowered postage rates should know that a cheap service is cheap—in every sense of the word. Conversely, a good, reliable expeditious, dependable service is worth every cent that is paid for it. There is no such thing, even in the conduct of postal service, as 'something for nothing.'

"In preventing the enactment of group insurance legislation and in aiding in preventing any unwise curtailment of postal revenue the affiliated postal organizations rendered a distinct public service."

"STARVE 'EM" POLICY ENLARGED BY PREMIER

London, England, Aug. 5.—Simultaneous with the announcement that a delegation of British trade unionists will leave for the United States to secure aid for striking coal miners, Premier Baldwin cabled to the United States that there is no distress in the coal sections of England, Scotland and Wales.

"There is no foundation for any statement as to starvation among the mining population which has been made in the United States," said the premier.

Washington, Aug. 14.—Sentiments expressed by Premier Baldwin on the absence of distress among striking British coal miners, is given publicity by certain newspapers in the United States. Visiting British trade unionists, now in this country to secure funds, tell a unanimous story of hardship, but the American public is asked to believe the premier's claim that the dole relief is protecting the children, and that after a three months' strike "there is good ground for thinking that in many areas children are actually better fed than they were before the strike."

STANDARD OIL SHIPS USE CHINK SAILORS

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—Boasted "high" wages and "good conditions" on ships flying the American flag caused a strike of 37 Chinese employed on the India Arrow, a Standard Oil tanker, while tied up at a local ship yard. The Chinese objected to the food. They were arrested and later returned to the ship's crew.

There are six white men on this boat, that flies the Stars and Stripes.

New York, Aug. 14.—"Nauticus," a magazine devoted to shipping interests, ridicules claims of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey that the reason 49 Standard Oil tankers are operated through foreign subsidiaries is that these countries have a "natural ambition" that products imported for their use shall be in ships under their own flag.

Standard Oil's claim that its oil can not compete with foreigners when handled in American ships is denied by "Nauticus."

"No worse moonshine has ever been published on this subject," says the shipping magazine. "Leaving aside the fact that American ships for foreign trade need not be built in American yards, and considering the matter of crew wages alone, the difference in wages in the course of a year between a fully-manned American and a foreign tanker runs under any flag, distributed over the price of the cargoes carried, would not make a difference perceptible to a barrel to the buyer, and on the high grades of oil the added cost would be less."

WAGES LESS THAN $20

Springfield, Mass., Aug. 14.—The average wage in this state is less than $20 a week, said Representative M. J. Shaw, in urging a Massachusetts pension law before the state branch of the A. F. of L.

The speaker said that a living wage in Massachusetts must be between $28 and $30 a week.

WANT RIGHT TO PICKET

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 14.—Dominion trade unionists demand a repeal of the anti-picketing decision of the Appeal Court of Canada, it is announced here in this city voiced objections to the decision and labor organizations are taking similar action. The workers will make this an issue in the coming Dominion elections.

$90 JOIN TEAMSTERS

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 14.—Teamsters' Union No. 535 is staging an organizing campaign, and at one meeting initiated $90 members.

WILL ENFORCE LABOR LAW

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 14.—Metal polishers have protested so vigorously against working in the Shower law, that Governor Grosbeck appointed two members of the union to see that the law is enforced.

Where these blowers are not established the local publicity is to be filled with clouds of dust that swell the ranks of tuberculosis victims.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

Chicago, Aug. 14.—Beginning September 13, wages of organized painters of this city will be advanced $1 a day. The contract decision of April 1 also provides that when three other trades receive higher wages, the painters' rates are automatically increased.

RAINCOAT WORKERS WIN

New York, Aug. 14.—Raincoat workers are winning their strike for the 40 hour week and higher wages. The workers in this industry are thoroughly organized and more than 60 per cent of the employers have signed the agreement.

GRAB ALIEN PROPERTY; NEW BOOKKEEPING PLAN

Washington, Aug. 14.—The discovery of irregular methods in the office of the Alien Property Custodian has brought sweeping changes in the accounting system of that department of government.

A suit is pending in the New York federal court against Thomas W. Miller, former alien property custodian. He handled millions of dollars' worth of property that was seized by the government when this country entered the World War. It was understood that the property would be returned when hostilities ended, but vast sums have been wasted.

Harry M. Daugherty, former attorney general, must stand trial for alleged unlawful connections with this property. It is claimed that Liberty Bonds to the value of $391,000 was transferred to a well known politician, who has since died, and that this transfer was made in the presence of Miller and another politician, who was Daugherty's confidential adviser, and who later committed suicide.

DISEASE NOT CURED BY SUPERSTITIONS

New York, Aug. 14.—Superstitious people still worship the science of health, according to City Health Commissioner Harris.

These practices range from carrying a horse chestnut as a cure for rheumatism to thumping the spine of a child ill with diphteria, instead of using antitoxin.

Other superstitions recalled by Dr. Harris are the belief that there are water poultices for boils and the tying of a piece of pork around a sore throat.

WAGE LAW IS EVADED

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 14.—A committee of trade unionists, appointed by the Trades and Labor Council, is inquiring into evasions of the minimum wage act by local canneries. The committee is urging women and girls to aid them in listing these violations.

LATHERS RAISE WAGES

Glendale, Cal., Aug. 14.—Lathers have raised wages to $5.50 per thousand. The former rate was $4.

WORLD WAR ENEMIES FORMING IRON TRUST

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 14.—The French and German governments eye each other with their historic suspicion, but the iron and steel magnates of these countries are organizing a western iron and steel trust, according to Dr. Moritz J. Bonn, of Berlin, one of Europe's foremost economists.

"Up to the present time the working class, through its labor and Socialist organizations, was the only militant force which acted for international co-operation. It looks very much as if this condition is to be changed completely, and that capital, especially that engaged in the iron and coal industry, which has been the most 'international' in Europe, is to lead along the path of internationalism. It is not this internationalism of early free traders. It is the protectionism that can do without frontiers and that might rightly be called the protectionists' free trade."

Dr. Bonn said that political settlements following the war cut Europe to pieces, from an economical standpoint. He pointed out that the Lorraine iron industry, controlled by France, is dependent on German Ruhr coke. "In the economic war, following the World War," he said, "the political strength lay with France, but the economic strength was on the side of Germany."

Labor Injunction Ignores Labor Question

By HON. JOHN R. FORD

Justice New York State Supreme Court

The labor question presents new problems which the courts of equity when our government was founded.

Equity rules appertain for the most part to property rights—the rights of capital. Today the courts persist in stretching these rules to crush labor organizations on the theory that labor is a commodity, without the slightest recognition of human souls and American homes which the term labor connotes. By statute labor acts labor has been declared not to be a commodity or article of commerce. Yet the courts refuse to give recognition to this obvious truth.

The fact is that the labor question is a law by itself and should be so treated by the law because of the human elements composing it.

I have quoted from the Daugherty (railroad) injunction, so-called. Do not forget that the United States of America itself was the complainant in that suit. And bear in mind that the Constitution forbids congress to make any law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press. Also remember that that injunction was granted without notice to the labor unions or their members. There was nothing before the judge except such papers as the attorney general saw fit to submit. Yet this injunction was issued which, by a stroke of the pen, turned into crimes acts which before that were innocent and unpunishable.

I say it turned innocent acts into crimes. It may be argued they were not made crimes, but only contempt of court. To that I answer this: Is any citizen safe if he finds himself in jail, it makes little difference what the act is called for which he is being punished.

Furthermore, he would be better off if it were called a crime because then the rights would be protected by the ample safeguards provided by the ordinary criminal procedure which, with exceeding care, protects the rights and liberties of the humblest.

Call his offense a contempt and he is haled before the judge and without trial by jury summarily condemned to fine and imprisonment, or both.

BOSSES IGNORE CAUSE FOR WORKERS' UNREST

New York, Aug. 14.—The Industrial Council of Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers has voted to take its production out of this city "because of intolerable labor conditions." About 25 per cent of the striking garment workers are employed by these business men.

The new locations are withheld. It is planned to place plants in nearby cities, and the unionists are supposed to never discover what towns have been selected. The workers show that the conditions which forced the garment workers to unite will likewise operate in western Connecticut, the Hudson river valley and in northern New Jersey. The workers agree that economic conditions in the industry are "intolerable." That is why they are on strike.

The industry is highly seasonal and the annual wage is low. Jobbers have established a system whereby small manufacturers bid against each other for contracts, and this has resulted in the oldtime sweatshop under modern name. Agreements are ignored and the jobber system has supplanted established manufacturers. The jobbers control 75 per cent of the cloak industry.

The union is striking to enforce these demands:

Responsibility of the jobbers for conditions under which their sub-contract work is performed.

Limiting the number of contractors to be employed.

A guarantee of 36 weeks' employment.

Wage increases and the 44-hour week.

STRUGGLE FOR MARKETS WILL BE MORE INTENSE

Washington, Aug. 14.—America is facing a fight for markets in South America, Europe and the Far East, according to Dr. Julius Klein of the Department of Commerce.

"All our overseas commercial rivals have launched aggressive drives against our export markets," he said. "Their governmental trade and diplomatic agencies, their banks, their shipping services are being expanded all along the line for the purpose. The economic recovery of Europe has been coming on gradually. It is very real today.

"The coming struggle, referred to by Dr. Klein, is of interest to every American citizen, and especially to wage earners and farmers, whose prosperity will be affected by the progress of this world-wide contest.

CAR MEN WILL ARBITRATE

Chicago, Aug. 14.—Employes of the elevated road will arbitrate wage differences. Mackay Hoyne, former state's attorney, will represent them, as he did three years ago. Then he secured an increase of 5 cents an hour, covering two years. The employes are members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America.

POSTAL CLERKS UNITE

St. Petersburg, Fla., Aug. 14.—Postal clerks have organized and are affiliated to the National Federation of Post Office Clerks.

LOW BUYING POWER CAN'T MEET OUTPUT

New York, Aug. 14.—The buying power of wage earners and farmers is not keeping pace with production in industry, says the Labor Bureau, Inc. A demand is made to apply organized labor's new-found increase in wages with increased production.

The bureau is a statistical and investigating organization that furnishes figures for labor unions engaged in arbitration.

"We haven't the wages to buy back a half of what our industrial equipment stands ready to purchase," says the bureau.

"There are more factories, more coal mines, more stores, than can possibly be kept busy on the basis of purchasing power.

"The amazing growth in the technical arts has provided the means for producing goods on the principle of mass production very much faster than purchasing power as liberated under the going financial mechanism can absorb. The owners of this surplus equipment naturally hate to see it standing idle, eating its head off in overhead charges. There results the frenzy of business men to find markets for their products and keep their overhead production costs down.

"It is this competition which results in vertical trusts, trade association advertising, high-pressure selling, installment buying, booms and wars. This is the new competition which no merger can overtake; which can waste $5 for every $1 the merger can save.

"Only a new economic line-up—in which the purchasing power keeps up with production, in which wages expand as fast as the technical arts—can abate the folly and waste of the new competition."

RECORD PROFITS

New York, Aug. 14.—Reports for the first half of the present year indicate that the railroads made a profit of $569,-000,000. No other record in their history shows such prosperity.

Gross revenues were $3,028,500,561, nearly $123,000,000 more than in the same period last year. This does not include unusually large amounts that were ploughed back for maintenance and upkeep.

RAIL BOARD'S FIRST CASE

New York, Aug. 14.—The new railroad mediation board faces its first wage case with a wage demand from 175,000 Brotherhood railroad employes. The increases asked are $1 to $1.25 a day. The board can make no award, but uses its good offices in bringing the parties together.